



The President's Daily Brief

June 9, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CSCE

Soviet concessions on many humanitarian issues have improved the chances that the European security conference will be concluded with a summit meeting, perhaps in July. Many issues must still be resolved, however, and the next several weeks in Geneva may be hectic for the conference delegates.

The Soviets now may seek to complete work on one of the major issues still to be resolved--that concerning military-related "confidence building measures," particularly advance notification of military maneuvers. The West already has made major concessions on this issue by agreeing that advance notice of maneuvers will be made on a voluntary basis. The West will be seeking Soviet concessions on how much advance notice is to be provided, and on the size and location of the maneuvers.

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one of Moscow's objectives on follow-on meetings--another major issue to be settled--is that these gatherings are to be highly politicized affairs in which all aspects of detente and the state of bilateral and multilateral relations are to be examined. Other Soviet objectives are to minimize or completely remove the chance that Moscow might be held to account on the implementation of the conference's agreements, and to obtain a commitment to another, full-scale European security conference.

On the issue of future security conferences, the West is on record as formally supporting a Danish proposal calling for a 1977 meeting of senior officials to assess how the conference's decisions have been implemented, and the state of relations among the participating states. These officials would then decide whether further meetings, including another conference, are necessary. The West, however, is split on the timeliness of follow-on meetings. The French advocate as little follow-on activity as possible, while the British and now even the Danes are prepared to accept relatively frequent meetings of experts and senior officials.

Working out a compromise on the follow-on issue may be difficult. Should the Soviets offer to compromise on follow on and on the "confidence building measures," however, the West will probably accept the holding of a summit in July.

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ISRAEL

The Israeli cabinet apparently gave Prime Minister Rabin the free hand he sought for his meeting with you later this week.

We have no details concerning the positions taken by individual cabinet members in the six-hour session which ended early this morning. The communiqué emphasized that Tel Aviv remains primarily interested in a resumption of the effort to achieve an interim agreement with Egypt. It reiterated, however, that the Israeli government is not prepared to soften the demands it made in March unless Egypt makes "parallel" concessions. Liberal cabinet members reportedly want Rabin to draw up an overall plan and to formulate new Israeli demands more acceptable to Egypt.

Prior to the cabinet meeting, Israel's largest dailies called on Prime Minister Rabin to take a firm stand and urged him not to allow the US to dictate the terms of the next stage in Middle East peace negotiations. One paper pointedly reminded the Prime Minister that the government's support had increased as a result of its tough stance during the indirect Israeli-Egyptian talks last March.

The daily of the ruling Labor Alignment's leftist Mapam party warned that Washington must understand that pressures on Israel alone will not promote a peace settlement. It added, however, that Israel, as well as Egypt, must show greater flexibility and realism.

A paper with close ties to Rabin's Labor Party urged the Prime Minister to make clear to the US that Israel prefers the risks of negotiation to those of war, and that it is willing to contribute to a political dialogue with the Arabs even though this will require concessions which will cause internal political problems in Israel.

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PORUGAL

The Azores are calm and under the control of Portuguese military authorities.

Lisbon has reacted to the incidents on Friday with moderation. It has promised to study Azorean farmer complaints--which have to do mainly with agricultural prices and commercial arrangements with the mainland--and has promised to take action on these within three months.

At the same time, Lisbon has warned that it will deal firmly with any further pro-independence demonstrations. Military authorities on Sao Miguel have strengthened security measures, but have assured the public that no additional military force will be brought in from the mainland.

The media in Lisbon have not referred to the US in connection with the demonstrations on Friday.

* * *

Lisbon has little time right now to devote to the Azores question because of more pressing problems demanding immediate attention--the worsening situation in Angola, the Socialist threat to quit the government coalition, and the country's deteriorating economy.

Issues related to freedom of the press occupied much of Lisbon's attention over the weekend.

The problems associated with the closure of the Socialist newspaper Republica remain unresolved. The ruling Revolutionary Council said on Friday that the paper could reopen, and the Socialist editors have announced they will resume publication. The Council has imposed conditions, however, that will be difficult for the Socialists to accept. The Council insists that the Communist printers who had originally seized the paper remain on the job. It also says it will revise the press law, which now contains a provision--ignored by the government--prohibiting worker seizures of newspapers.

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The Portuguese Catholic Church is now also moving to resist Communist pressures on the media. Its radio station has been partly taken over by pro-communist workers.

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The church is a potent force in Portugal and if it takes this issue to the pulpit the result could be growing church-state frictions.

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NOTES

The Soviets, as expected, have sent a space probe on a five-month journey to Venus.

Venus 9 blasted off from the Tyuratam space center late Saturday night and was placed on a trajectory toward the planet. Venus 8, which was launched in 1972, landed intact on the planet's surface. The launch window for Venus will be open until late June, and other probes are likely.

* * *

After another ICBM firing on Friday night, the Soviets removed shipping restrictions on their Pacific Ocean impact area and announced the successful completion of the test series.

Two SS-18 Mod 2s--which carry MIRVs--were fired to the impact area north of Midway Island during the test series. A single-warhead version of the SS-18, a large ICBM in the SS-9 class, is now operational. The MIRVed version could reach operational status before the end of the year.

* * *

EC and Arab League experts will meet in Cairo on Tuesday to open the substantive part of their dialogue which was initiated by France in January 1974.

The EC Nine have proposed to begin with the immediate creation of five groups of experts who would study joint action on agriculture and food; industrial infrastructure and peaceful use of atomic energy; financial, commercial, and trade cooperation; social aspects and labor; and cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. A principal factor delaying the talks until now has been disagreement on the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization. A compromise has been reached in which neither the EC nor the Arab delegations will be identified by nationality.

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